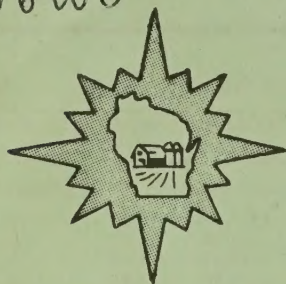


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WISCONSIN *Farm Reporter*

- Dairy
- Crops
- Livestock

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May 1981

Cream of the News

Milk production on Wisconsin farms during April was up 3 percent from a year ago, while the Nation's output increased 5 percent.

Wholesale prices of cheddar cheese for April were higher than the previous month, but Swiss cheese and butter prices were unchanged.

Weekly estimates for April indicated that production of American cheese in Wisconsin would continue well above last year, but butter production may be less than in April 1980.

Milk prices received by Wisconsin farmers in April were down 9 cents from a month earlier but \$1.04 above the previous year.

Cold storage stocks of cheese in the Nation at the end of April were up 24 percent from a year ago and a record high.

The value of milk sold by Wisconsin farmers in 1980 totaled nearly \$2.8 billion, an increase of 10 percent from 1979.

Maple syrup production in Wisconsin for 1981 was 14 percent more than in 1980, while the Nation's output increased 45 percent with the largest crop since 1966.

The index of prices received by Wisconsin farmers as of mid-April was 1 point higher than a month earlier and 33 points above April 1980.

Cold storage stocks of red meat in the Nation at the end of April were up 14 percent from a year ago, while poultry stocks increased 5 percent.

Cattle and hog prices at Wisconsin markets during April were higher than the previous month.

Livestock slaughter in Wisconsin for April was below a year earlier except for sheep and lambs.

Marathon County remained the leading milk producing county in 1980 with a production of nearly 1.1 billion pounds.

APRIL MILK PRODUCTION UP 3 PERCENT FROM YEAR AGO

Milk production on Wisconsin farms during April totaled 1,978 million pounds, an increase of 3 percent from April 1980. There were 1,823,000 milk cows on farms in April, up 10,000 cows from a year earlier. Production per cow for April averaged 1,085 pounds, a gain of 30 pounds from the previous year. The State's milk production remained the same from March to April in contrast to a decline of one-half percent for those months in 1980. During the first four months of 1981, milk production in Wisconsin increased 2.6 percent from that period last year.

Milk Production

Selected States	April 1980	April 1981	Jan.-April 1981	Change from last year	
				April	Jan.-April
	Million pounds			Percent	
Wisconsin . . .	1,913	1,978	7,543	+ 3	+ 3
Minnesota . . .	859	945	3,544	+ 10	+ 9
New York . . .	962	990	3,759	+ 3	+ 2
Pennsylvania . .	694	741	2,909	+ 7	+ 5
California . . .	1,121	1,206	4,520	+ 8	+ 6
Other states . .	5,464	5,684	21,527	+ 4	+ 3
United States .	11,013	11,544	43,802	+ 5	+ 4

The annual quantity of grain and other concentrates fed to Wisconsin milk cows during 1980 totaled nearly 4.5 million tons, an increase of 2 percent from 1979. Dairymen fed an average of 4,910 pounds of grain and concentrates per milk cow in 1980, up 90 pounds from the previous year. The average value for 100 pounds of concentrate ration fed to milk cows in 1980 was \$6.42, a gain of 41 cents from 1979. Milk-feed price ratios were below a year earlier throughout 1980 as feed prices increased more than milk prices. Milk production in the Nation during April totaled 11.5 billion pounds, up 5 percent from a year ago. The 10.9 million milk cows on farms were 1 percent more than the previous year. Production per cow averaged 1,063 pounds for April, 41 pounds above last year. Accumulated milk production during the first four months of 1981 was 4 percent higher than in January-April 1980. California's milk production in April was 8 percent more than a year earlier, Minnesota increased 10

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percent, New York was up 3 percent, and Pennsylvania had a gain of 7 percent.

The annual quantity of grain and other concentrates fed to to Nation's milk cows in 1980 was up 5 percent from 1979. An average of 5,260 pounds of concentrate ration was fed per cow in 1980, an increase of 190 pounds from the previous year. The value of the 1980 concentrate ration averaged \$7.42 per 100 pounds, 74 cents more than in 1979.

MILK PRICE LOWER IN APRIL

Prices received by Wisconsin farmers for milk sold in April were expected to average \$13.50 a hundredweight, a decline of 9 cents from the previous month. A year ago in April the average price for milk was \$12.46 a hundredweight.

Milk prices in Wisconsin during March averaged \$13.59 a hundredweight, down 3 cents from a month earlier but \$1.14 above last year. Milkfat content for March averaged 3.74 percent compared with 3.80 percent in March 1980.

Grade A milk prices averaged \$13.75 a hundredweight in March, a decline of 2 cents from February but \$1.16 higher than a year ago. Manufacturing grade milk returned an average of \$13.21 a hundredweight for March, down 4 cents from the previous month but \$1.09 above last year. The 3.5 percent base price for manufacturing grade milk in March was \$12.80 a hundredweight, equal to the government support price.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	February 1981		March price per cwt.			April 1981 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1980	1981	81/80 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin	3.76	13.62	12.45	13.59	+ 9	13.50
Minnesota	3.63	13.22	12.06	13.25	+10	13.20
New York	3.67	13.90	12.40	13.60	+10	13.40
California	3.70	13.80	12.30	13.30	+ 8	13.10
United States . . .	3.73	14.00	12.70	13.80	+ 9	13.70
Wisconsin utilization						
Market milk	3.75	13.77	12.59	13.75	+ 9	XXX
Manufacturing milk	3.78	13.25	12.12	13.21	+ 9	XXX
Creameries	3.71	13.32	12.21	13.27	+ 9	XXX
Cheese factories . .	3.78	13.25	12.13	13.21	+ 9	XXX
Varied prod. plants	3.78	13.10	12.00	13.07	+ 9	XXX

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

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Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	March 1980	February 1981	March 1981 2/	Change from last year
	Dollars per cwt.			Percent
Market milk	12.15	13.35	13.36	+ 10
Manufacturing milk	11.68	12.80	12.80	+ 10
Creameries	11.51	12.99	12.98	+ 13
American cheese plants	11.67	12.80	12.81	+ 10
Varied products plants	11.63	12.65	12.66	+ 9
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone	12.05	13.16	13.17	+ 9

1/Computed using milkfat differential. 2/Preliminary.

CHEESE AND BUTTER PRODUCTION HIGHER THAN A YEAR AGO

Production of butter and cheese in Wisconsin and the Nation during March remained substantially higher than a year ago. Dairy plants in Wisconsin churned 28.3 million pounds of butter in March, an increase of 8 percent from the previous year. The National butter output for March was up 15 percent from March 1980. Minnesota had an increase of 6 percent, California gained 13 percent, and other states were up 22 percent.

Cheese production in the Nation during March was 7 percent more than a year earlier. American cheese production increased 15 percent from March 1980, while output of Brick and Muenster had a gain of 6 percent. Italian cheese production for March was down 7 percent from the previous year. Swiss cheese production declined 5 percent but all other varieties were up 4 percent.

Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	March 1980	March 1981	Jan.-Mar. 1981	Change from last year	
				March	Jan.-Mar.
	1,000 pounds			Percent	
BUTTER					
Wisconsin	26,300	28,300	84,800	+ 8	+ 10
Minnesota	14,765	15,700	43,855	+ 6	+ 8
California	15,300	17,329	51,329	+13	+ 8
Other states	45,324	55,324	168,131	+22	+21
United States	101,689	116,653	348,115	+15	+14
CHEESE, AMERICAN					
Wisconsin	83,000	90,500	262,200	+ 9	+13
Minnesota	39,020	46,935	132,770	+20	+16
Iowa	7,897	8,875	25,700	+12	+13
Other states	64,600	78,205	214,166	+21	+16
United States	194,517	224,515	634,836	+15	+15
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS					
United States					
Swiss	17,538	16,700	51,045	- 5	- 1
Brick and Muenster	6,929	7,333	20,210	+ 6	+ 2
Italian	92,925	86,619	248,711	- 7	- 1
All other	29,175	30,214	71,022	+ 4	- 2
Total	146,567	140,866	390,988	- 4	- 1
ALL CHEESE					
United States	341,084	365,381	1,024,716	+ 7	+ 8
OTHER PRODUCTS					
Cottage Cheese					
United States					
Curd 1/	57,468	59,764	162,872	+ 4	- 2
Creamed 2/	72,241	70,269	193,241	- 3	- 7
Lowfat 3/	14,399	17,701	47,217	+23	+14
Ice Cream	1,000 gallons			Percent	
Wisconsin	1,650	1,750	4,600	+ 6	+ 7
Illinois	3,280	3,260	8,470	- 1	- 7
Iowa	1,210	970	2,775	-20	-14
Michigan	3,000	2,450	6,850	-18	-16
Minnesota	2,530	2,970	8,125	+17	+ 5
Other states	56,789	60,105	154,514	+ 6	+ 1
United States	68,459	71,505	185,334	+ 4	n. c.

1/Mostly used for processing into creamed or lowfat cottage cheese. 2/Fat content 4 percent or more. 3/Fat content less than 4 percent.

Wisconsin's production of American cheese during March was 9 percent higher than a year ago. Minnesota had an increase of 20 percent, Iowa was up 12 percent, and other states showed a gain of 21 percent.

The National production of cottage cheese curd for March was 4 percent more than the previous year. Creamed cottage cheese production declined 3 percent, but output of lowfat cottage cheese was up 23 percent from March 1980. Ice cream production in Wisconsin and the Nation during March was above a year earlier.

BUTTER STOCKS HIGHEST SINCE AUGUST 1962

Cold storage stocks of butter in the Nation at the end of April totaled 445.2 million pounds, 87 percent higher than a year earlier and the largest stocks since August 1962. Government butter stocks amounted to 392.7 million pounds, more than double the Government holdings on April 30, 1980. Wisconsin had 57.2 million pounds of butter in cold storage, up 57 percent from the previous year.

Cheese stocks in the Nation at the end of April totaled 633.2 million pounds, 24 percent above a year ago and a record high. American cheese stocks at 540.8 million pounds were up 33 percent from last year. Stocks of Swiss cheese on April 30th were 8 percent higher than the previous year while all other cheese stocks were down 15 percent.

1980 MILK SALES VALUED AT NEARLY \$2.8 BILLION

The value of milk sold by Wisconsin farmers in 1980 totaled nearly \$2.8 billion, an increase of 10 percent from 1979. There were 21.8 billion pounds of milk marketed from Wisconsin farms last year, 2 percent more than the previous year. Farmers sold 97.7 percent of their 1980 milk production and kept the remainder for use on farms. Milk prices averaged \$12.67 a hundredweight for 1980, up 92 cents from 1979 and the seventeenth consecutive year of higher milk prices.

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	April 30, 1979	April 30, 1980	April 30, 1981	Change from last year
1,000 pounds				Percent
UNITED STATES				
Butter	218,212	238,060	445,224	+ 87
Cheese, American	377,599	405,149	540,810	+ 33
Cheese, Swiss	12,648	11,409	12,307	+ 8
Cheese, all other	71,915	93,918	80,073	-15
Cheese, total	462,162	510,476	633,190	+ 24
WISCONSIN				
Butter	30,371	36,351	57,207	+ 57
Cheese, American	196,950	223,479	225,014	+ 1
GOVERNMENT STOCKS*				
Butter	178,006	183,250	392,676	+ 114
Cheese, American	2,241	12,100	111,816	XXX

*Included in above totals.

Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products, United States

Commodity	March 31, 1979	March 31, 1980	March 31, 1981	Change from last year
1,000 pounds				Percent
Dried whole milk	4,257	6,103	3,875	-37
Dried skim milk	51,551	85,254	98,472	+ 16
Dried buttermilk	5,025	10,902	10,988	+ 1
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/ . .	49,569	76,243	39,545	-48

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

MARATHON COUNTY CONTINUES LEAD IN MILK PRODUCTION

Marathon County remained the leading milk producing county in 1980 with a production of nearly 1.1 billion pounds. Dane County ranked second with 845 million pounds produced last year, followed by Clark, Dodge, and Grant. These five counties accounted for almost 20 percent of the State's milk output in 1980. The east central district of Wisconsin had the greatest number of milk cows and produced the most milk, while the south central district ranked first in production per cow.

Disposition and Sales of Milk Produced, Wisconsin, 1962-80

Year	Total milk production	Milk fed or consumed on farms where produced				Milk sold from farms				
		Fed to calves	Consumed in the farm household		Total	To plants and dealers		Direct to consumers	Total	Value of sales
			As milk and cream	As farm butter		As cream	As milk			
					Million pounds					1,000 dollars
1962	18,598	490	286	3	779	20	17,770	29	17,819	609,297
1963	18,597	475	277	2	754	14	17,800	29	17,843	610,199
1964	19,358	460	267	2	729	10	18,590	29	18,629	646,243
1965	18,841	445	257	1	703	9	18,100	29	18,138	645,514
1966	18,052	430	240	1	671	5	17,350	26	17,381	741,953
1967	18,219	415	229	1	658 1/	5	17,530	26	17,561	763,812
1968	18,210	400	209	—	609	5	17,570	26	17,601	807,717
1969	18,051	384	210	—	594	2	17,430	25	17,457	851,741
1970	18,435	383	196	—	579	1	17,830	25	17,856	915,774
1971	18,848	386	182	—	568	—	18,260	20	18,280	970,059
1972	19,226	381	181	—	562	—	18,645	19	18,664	1,035,142
1973	18,442	376	178	—	554	—	17,870	18	17,888	1,201,337
1974	18,713	372	175	—	547	—	18,150	16	18,166	1,396,227
1975	18,900	373	172	—	545	—	18,340	15	18,355	1,500,541
1976	20,296	371	170	—	541	—	19,740	15	19,755	1,810,417
1977	21,041	358	168	—	526	—	20,500	15	20,515	1,890,352
1978	21,252	360	163	—	523	—	20,715	14	20,729	2,127,573
1979	21,850	358	159	—	517	—	21,320	13	21,333	2,507,337
1980 *	22,298	358	157	—	515	—	21,770	13	21,783	2,760,617

*Preliminary. 1/Includes some milk used for other purposes on farms or not utilized.

Milk Cows, Production Per Cow, and Total Milk Production, By Counties, Wisconsin, 1979-80

County	1979			1980 1/			
	Number of cows 2/	Milk per cow	Total production	Number of cows 2/	Milk per cow	Production	
						Quantity	Rank
	Number	Pounds	1,000 pounds	Number	Pounds	1,000 pounds	
Barron	47,400	12,000	568,800	47,800	12,200	583,160	11
Bayfield	5,600	11,500	64,400	5,600	11,700	65,520	61
Burnett	7,200	11,200	80,640	7,100	11,400	80,940	59
Chippewa	50,700	11,900	603,330	50,800	12,100	614,680	8
Douglas	2,500	11,100	27,750	2,400	11,200	26,880	65
Polk	34,000	12,000	408,000	34,000	12,200	414,800	23
Rusk	18,600	10,800	200,880	18,600	11,000	204,600	44
Sawyer	3,300	11,100	36,630	3,200	11,200	35,840	64
Washburn	5,800	11,600	67,280	5,900	11,700	69,030	60
Northwest District	175,100	11,752	2,057,710	175,400	11,947	2,095,450	
Ashland	3,700	11,100	41,070	3,600	11,400	41,040	63
Clark	67,900	12,200	828,380	67,900	12,400	841,960	3
Iron	600	10,800	6,480	600	11,100	6,660	68
Lincoln	11,500	11,400	131,100	11,500	11,600	133,400	51
Marathon	85,900	12,200	1,047,980	85,900	12,400	1,065,160	1
Oneida	400	10,600	4,240	300	10,700	3,210	69
Price	9,400	10,600	99,640	9,300	10,800	100,440	55
Taylor	30,100	11,800	355,180	30,100	12,000	361,200	28
Vilas	100	10,400	1,040	100	10,600	1,060	71
North Central District	209,600	12,000	2,515,110	209,300	12,203	2,554,130	
Florence	1,100	11,800	12,980	1,200	12,000	14,400	67
Forest	1,800	10,700	19,260	1,600	10,900	17,440	66
Langlade	13,300	11,500	152,950	13,300	11,600	154,280	49
Marinette	14,200	11,500	163,300	14,200	11,700	166,140	48
Oconto	30,400	11,500	349,600	30,400	11,600	352,640	29
Shawano 3/	47,700	12,200	581,940	47,700	12,400	591,480	10
Northeast District	108,500	11,798	1,280,030	108,400	11,959	1,296,380	
Buffalo	28,800	11,800	339,840	29,200	12,000	350,400	30
Dunn	41,100	11,900	489,090	41,000	12,000	492,000	16
Eau Claire	22,200	11,600	257,520	22,100	11,800	260,780	39
Jackson	19,000	11,600	220,400	19,000	11,900	226,100	41
La Crosse	20,100	12,000	241,200	20,100	12,100	243,210	40
Monroe	37,700	11,600	437,320	37,700	11,900	448,630	18
Pepin	10,100	11,600	117,160	10,100	11,800	119,180	54
Pierce	25,900	12,100	313,390	25,900	12,300	318,570	33
St. Croix	35,600	12,100	430,760	35,600	12,400	441,440	20
Trempealeau	35,600	11,900	423,640	35,600	12,100	430,760	21
West Central District	276,100	11,845	3,270,320	276,300	12,056	3,331,070	
Adams	3,600	11,500	41,400	3,700	11,800	43,660	62
Green Lake	14,600	12,000	175,200	14,600	12,300	179,580	46
Juneau	14,400	11,700	168,480	14,500	12,000	174,000	47
Marquette	7,300	11,400	83,220	7,300	11,700	85,410	58
Portage	17,100	11,800	201,780	17,200	12,100	208,120	43
Waupaca	33,800	11,900	402,220	33,800	12,200	412,360	24
Waushara	12,200	11,900	145,180	12,200	12,200	148,840	50
Wood	25,900	11,700	303,030	25,900	11,900	308,210	35
Central District	128,900	11,796	1,520,510	129,200	12,076	1,560,180	
Brown	39,000	12,600	491,400	39,000	12,900	503,100	13
Calumet	30,600	12,600	385,560	30,700	12,900	396,030	25
Door	15,500	12,200	189,100	15,500	12,400	192,200	45
Fond du Lac	50,500	12,600	636,300	50,500	12,900	651,450	6
Kewaunee	30,300	12,100	366,630	30,400	12,500	380,000	26
Manitowoc	44,800	12,400	555,520	44,900	12,700	570,230	12
Outagamie	45,900	12,600	578,340	46,200	12,900	595,980	9
Sheboygan	32,300	12,700	410,210	32,400	13,000	421,200	22
Winnebago	24,000	12,600	302,400	24,000	13,000	312,000	34
East Central District	312,900	12,513	3,915,460	313,600	12,826	4,022,190	
Crawford	19,100	11,200	213,920	19,100	11,400	217,740	42
Grant	56,300	11,600	653,080	56,800	11,800	670,240	5
Iowa	37,900	11,600	439,640	37,900	11,800	447,220	19
Lafayette	42,000	11,600	487,200	42,100	11,700	492,570	15
Richland	27,500	11,400	313,500	27,700	11,600	321,320	32
Sauk	38,400	11,800	453,120	38,400	11,900	456,960	17
Vernon	44,800	11,100	497,280	44,800	11,200	501,760	14
Southwest District	266,000	11,495	3,057,740	266,800	11,648	3,107,810	
Columbia	23,400	12,600	294,840	23,400	12,900	301,860	36
Dane	65,000	12,700	825,500	65,000	13,000	845,000	2
Dodge	63,100	12,700	801,370	63,100	13,000	820,300	4
Green	50,300	12,600	633,780	50,200	12,900	647,580	7
Jefferson	28,800	12,700	365,760	28,800	13,000	374,400	27
Rock	27,600	12,400	342,240	27,500	12,700	349,250	31
South Central District	258,200	12,639	3,263,490	258,000	12,939	3,338,390	
Kenosha	6,900	12,400	85,560	6,900	12,700	87,630	57
Milwaukee	200	11,800	2,360	100	12,200	1,220	70
Ozaukee	10,200	12,100	123,420	10,300	12,400	127,720	52
Racine	6,900	12,600	86,940	7,000	12,900	90,300	56
Walworth	21,000	12,600	264,600	21,000	12,800	268,800	38
Washington	22,500	12,700	285,750	22,500	12,900	290,250	37
Waukesha	10,000	12,100	121,000	10,200	12,400	126,480	53
Southeast District	77,700	12,479	969,630	78,000	12,723	992,400	
State	1,813,000	12,052	21,850,000	1,815,000	12,285	22,298,000	

1/Preliminary. 2/Average number of milk cows on farms during year, excluding heifers not yet fresh. 3/Includes Menominee.

AMERICAN CHEESE PRODUCTION CONTINUES ABOVE YEAR AGO

Based on weekly estimates for April, the production of American cheese in the Nation was up 15 percent from last year. This was the same increase as shown in the first three months of 1981. Wisconsin's output of American cheese for April was about 9 percent higher than a year earlier. During the first quarter of 1981, the State's production of American cheese was 13 percent above that period in 1980.

Weekly estimates indicated that the Nation's butter production during April was 5 percent more than the previous year. This was substantially less than the 14 percent increase shown in the first three months of 1981. Wisconsin's butter production for April was lower than a year ago after a 10 percent increase from January through March.

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American Cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1981	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1981	Change from last year	Change from last year
	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
March . . .	116,653	+ 15	+ 8	224,515	+ 15	+ 9
Jan.-March	348,115	+ 14	+ 10	634,836	+ 15	+ 13
Weeks ending						
April 9	27,000	+ 4	- 10	52,700	+ 13	+ 9
April 16	27,500	+ 6	+ 7	54,800	+ 15	+ 7
April 23	27,200	+ 3	- 1	55,300	+ 16	+ 9
April 30	27,800	+ 4	- 6	56,200	+ 16	+ 11
Total	109,500	+ 5	XXX	219,000	+ 15	XXX

CHEDDAR CHEESE PRICE HIGHER

Wholesale prices of cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged over \$1.39 a pound at Wisconsin assembly points during April. This was an increase of nearly one-half cent from March and almost 8 cents above April 1980.

Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged \$1.91 a pound in April. Prices for Swiss cheese remained unchanged from the previous month but were 17½ cents higher than a year ago.

The 92-score butter price at Chicago averaged over \$1.47 a pound in April, the same as March but 13 cents above last year.

National evaporated milk prices averaged \$21.70 a case for April, equal to the previous month but \$2.06 more than a year earlier.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	April 1980	March 1981	April 1981
Butter, 92-score, Chicago, pound . . .	134.26¢	147.25¢	147.25¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. block, pound 1/. . .	131.43¢	138.75¢	139.16¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block, pound 1/.	173.49¢	191.00¢	191.00¢
National evaporated milk, case, 48 13 fluid oz. cans	\$19.64	\$21.70	\$21.70
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound	87.11¢	93.44¢	93.48¢

1/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

Nonfat dry milk prices in the Chicago area averaged about 93½ cents a pound during April, nearly the same as March but more than 6 cents above April 1980.

PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP SLIGHTLY IN MID-APRIL

The index of prices received by Wisconsin farmers as of mid-April was 1 point higher than a month earlier. At 291 percent of the 1967 base, the prices received index was 33 points (13 percent) above April 1980. The index of prices paid by Wisconsin farmers increased 2 points from March to April, and it was 33 points (12 percent) higher than a year ago.

Prices for milk cows averaged \$1,200.00 per head on April 15th, a decline of \$10.00 from both the previous month and last year. Calves returned \$102.00 a hundredweight in April, a gain of \$3.40 from March and \$1.00 more than a year earlier.

Steers and heifers averaged \$58.40 a hundredweight in mid-April, up \$1.50 from March but \$3.90 under the previous year. Slaughter cows brought an average of \$44.60 a hundredweight for April, an increase of 40 cents from a month earlier but \$2.50 below a year ago.

Hog prices averaged \$38.50 a hundredweight in April, a gain of 20 cents from March and \$10.70 above last year when prices were at a six-year low.

Sheep averaged \$20.00 a hundredweight as of mid-April, a decline of 50 cents from the previous month but up 50 cents from April 1980. Lambs returned an average of \$62.50 a hundredweight for April, an increase of \$7.50 from March and \$2.00 higher than a year ago.

Turkeys averaged 34 cents a pound liveweight in April, down 5 cents from a month earlier but 13 cents above last year. Egg prices averaged 51.4 cents a dozen as of mid-April, a gain of 5 cents from March and 12.4 cents more than a year earlier.

Wheat prices dropped 10 cents a pound from March to April. At \$3.80 a bushel, wheat was 35 cents above April 15, 1980. Corn averaged \$3.14 a bushel from mid-April, an increase of 10 cents from the previous month and the highest since December 1974. A year ago the corn price averaged \$2.30 a bushel.

Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	Month of April 1979	Month of April 1980	March 15 1981	April 15 1981
Dollars					
Milk cows	Head	1,010.00	1,210.00	1,210.00	1,200.00
Steers and heifers .	Cwt.	76.00	62.30	56.90 1/	58.40
Cow slaughter . . .	Cwt.	57.50	47.10	44.20 1/	44.60
Calves	Cwt.	125.00	101.00	98.60 1/	102.00
Hogs	Cwt.	43.60	27.80	38.30 1/	38.50
Sheep	Cwt.	24.70	19.50	20.50	20.00
Lambs	Cwt.	67.00	60.50	55.00	62.50
Turkeys	Lb.	2/	.210	.390	.340
Eggs	Doz.	.542	.390	.464	.514
Corn	Bu.	2.19	2.30	3.04 1/	3.14
Wheat	Bu.	3.00	3.45	3.90	3.80
Oats	Bu.	1.21	1.41	1.84 1/	1.85
Soybeans	Bu.	6.76	5.30	6.80	7.10
Alfalfa hay, baled	Ton	36.00	34.00	46.50	46.00

1/Average for the month. 2/Insufficient sales to establish price.

Oats averaged a record high of \$1.85 a bushel in April, up 1 cent from March and 44 cents above April 1980.

The mid-April soybean price of \$7.10 a bushel was 30 cents higher than a month earlier and \$1.80 above last year. Baled alfalfa hay brought an average of \$46.00 a ton in April, down 50 cents from the previous month but \$12.00 more than a year ago.

MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION UP CONSIDERABLY IN NATION

Maple syrup production in the Nation for 1981 totaled 1,410,000 gallons, an increase of 45 percent from 1980 and the largest output since 1966. The 1981 sugaring season in New England was the best in recent years. Weather conditions were ideal, with the season starting and ending about 12 days ahead of last year. The sap was much sweeter than normal and mostly light syrup was produced. Syrup production was the highest since 1926 in New Hampshire, since 1961 in Vermont, since 1966 in Massachusetts, and since 1957 in Maine.

The New York season was one of the best in recent years, and sap sweetness was above average. Weather conditions and temperatures remained favorable throughout the season, and the New York crop was the largest since 1975. Ohio and Pennsylvania also experienced a better than normal season, with high sap sweetness and predominantly light color.

Wisconsin produced 125,000 gallons of maple syrup in 1981, up 14 percent from 1980 as an increase in the number of taps offset lower yields. Tapping began for most pro-

ducers about March 10th, nearly two weeks earlier than in 1980. The season continued to about April 4th. Most producers rated the sap light in color and above average in sweetness. The Wisconsin maple syrup production had a value of \$2.4 million, up 45 percent from 1980 due to higher prices and greater production. Nationally, the maple syrup production was valued at \$25.5 million, 62 percent more than in 1980 as the price averaged a record high of \$18.10 per gallon.

MAY CROP REPORT

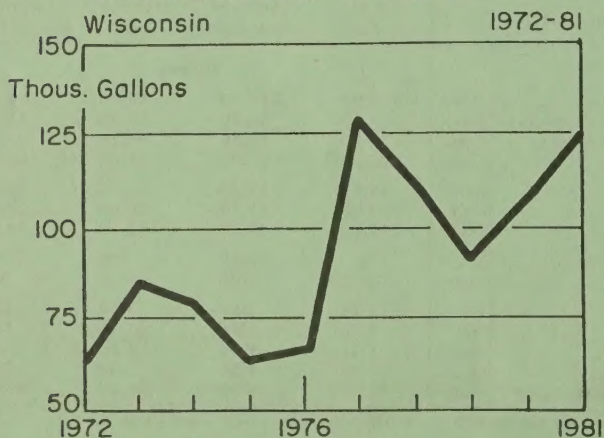
Dry weather in the second and third weeks of May allowed farmers in Wisconsin to make much progress on planting of crops. Corn planting was 90 percent completed as of May 24th, nearly caught up to the 1980 progress for that date and well ahead of the 1971-80 average of 67 percent. Early corn was up a few inches, while late corn needed moisture for germination and also for activation of herbicides. Soybean planting was 40 percent completed as of May 24th, behind last year's 55 percent but ahead of the average of 30 percent for the past ten seasons. Oats planting was finished as were most other small grains. Early oats was doing well and winter wheat looked good.

Growth of hay fields was slowed in May by cool, dry weather. Some fields had a lot of winterkill. First crop hay will likely be below normal. The condition of hay fields varies from poor to good. Hay supplies could be tighter in 1981 as stocks are lower. Hay stocks on Wisconsin farms as of May 1 were 27 percent under a year ago. Pasture conditions began to decline during May due to a shortage of moisture.

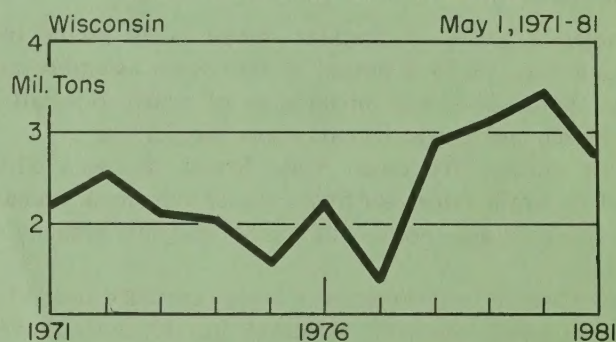
Maple Syrup
Wisconsin and Other Leading States

State	Production		
	1979	1980	1981
	1,000 gallons		
Maine	9	5	12
New Hampshire	76	55	104
Vermont	465	315	545
Massachusetts	30	18	40
New York	315	243	331
Pennsylvania	57	56	62
Ohio	90	88	100
Michigan	85	83	91
WISCONSIN	92	110	125
United States	1,219	973	1,410

MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION



HAY STOCKS ON FARMS



Topsoil moisture supplies as of May 22nd were rated short by two-thirds of the reporters responding on the Weekly Crop-Weather report. One-third of the respondents rated topsoil moisture as adequate. April's rainfall was above normal in all areas, but May has been drier. Rainfall was needed in late May for all crops. Irrigation was being used where available. Temperature were below normal in most of May but warmed to the mid-80's in some areas after the 19th.

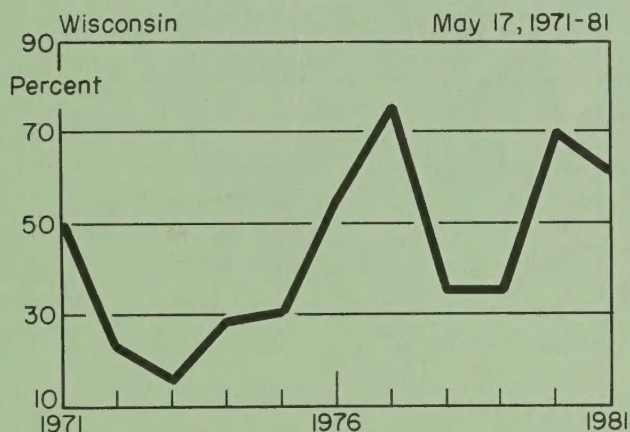
Planting of potatoes and vegetable crops was active in May. Apple trees bloomed in southern areas during the first week of May, and cherry trees were in bloom in Door County by Memorial Day. Some strawberries were hurt by frost in May. Tobacco plants improved with the warmer temperatures after the middle of May.

Precipitation in Inches, by Districts, Wisconsin

District	Month of April			Since January 1		
	1980	1981 1/	Normal	1980	1981 1/	Normal
Northwest . . . . .	.9	5.3	2.5	3.8	9.4	5.7
North Central	1.5	5.8	2.4	4.5	9.0	6.0
Northeast	2.8	5.7	2.6	5.7	8.7	6.4
West Central	1.9	5.2	2.7	4.8	8.6	6.3
Central	2.1	4.9	2.8	5.2	8.2	6.6
East Central	3.0	4.8	2.8	6.1	7.7	6.8
Southwest	2.2	4.3	3.0	4.8	7.1	7.0
South Central	2.5	3.9	2.9	4.8	7.2	7.2
Southeast	3.5	5.1	2.9	6.1	7.8	7.7

1/Preliminary.

PERCENT OF CORN PLANTED



MEAT AND POULTRY STOCKS HIGHER THAN A YEAR AGO

Cold storage stocks of red meat in the Nation at the end of April were up 14 percent from last year, while poultry stocks showed an increase of 5 percent.

Beef stocks totaled 339.4 million pounds on April 30th, a gain of 14 percent from the previous year. Stocks of pork in cold storage amounted to nearly 406 million pounds, 18 percent more than a year earlier. Veal stocks were up 7 percent from April 30, 1979, while lamb and mutton stocks increased 21 percent.

The 159.6 million pounds of frozen chicken in storage at the end of April were 2 percent less than a year ago. Turkey stocks totaled 229.7 million pounds, 11 percent above April 30, 1980.

Cold Storage Stocks of Red Meat and Poultry
United States, April 30, 1981, and Comparisons

Commodity	April 30, 1979	April 30, 1980	Mar. 31, 1981	April 30, 1981	Change from last year
1,000 pounds					
FROZEN MEAT					
Beef	410,146	296,571	341,866	339,387	+ 14
Pork	278,345	345,291	360,563	405,941	+ 18
Veal	9,369	8,887	9,290	9,467	+ 7
Lamb and mutton	12,072	8,475	7,823	10,293	+ 21
CANNED MEATS IN COOLER					
Hams	57,393	43,834	43,049	41,465	- 5
Other meats	16,040	12,483	13,258	12,680	+ 2
Total red meat 1/	783,365	715,541	775,849	819,233	+ 14
FROZEN POULTRY					
Chicken, all	105,334	161,995	148,931	159,550	- 2
Turkeys, all	128,032	206,647	220,651	229,692	+ 11
Total poultry 2/	235,584	372,384	372,695	392,423	+ 5

1/Excludes cooler beef and cooler pork. 2/Includes frozen ducks.

STATE'S LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER BELOW APRIL LAST YEAR

Livestock slaughter in Wisconsin during April was less than a year earlier except for sheep and lambs. There were 87,800 cattle slaughtered in the State, 7 percent fewer than in April 1980. Cow slaughter was down 4 percent, while the number of steers and heifers killed declined 12 percent. The National cattle slaughter for April was up 3 percent from last year.

Calf slaughter numbered 29,200 head in Wisconsin during April, a decline of 3 percent from a year ago. Nationally, calf slaughter increased 3 percent from April 1980.

The 200,100 hogs butchered in Wisconsin during April were 4 percent less than the previous year. Hog slaughter in the Nation for April was 6 percent under last year.

Sheep and lamb slaughter in Wisconsin during April totaled 700 head compared with 300 head in April 1980. The National sheep and lamb kill for April was up 11 percent from a year ago.

Commercial Slaughter, April 1980 and 1981, Wisconsin and United States 1/

Species and area	Number slaughtered						Total liveweight		
	April			January - April			April		
	1980	1981	Change from last year 2/	1980	1981	Change from last year 2/	1980	1981	Change from last year 2/
	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds		Percent
WISCONSIN									
Cattle, all	94.9	87.8	— 7	363.6	342.5	— 6	113.0	107.7	— 5
Cows 3/	42.0	40.5	— 4	178.6	170.9	— 4	—	—	—
Steers and heifers 3/ . .	38.2	33.8	— 12	129.4	119.4	— 8	—	—	—
Calves	30.2	29.2	— 3	134.4	137.0	+ 2	6.4	7.1	+ 10
Hogs, all	208.5	200.1	— 4	801.7	784.9	— 2	49.3	47.8	— 3
Sows 3/.	4/	4/	—	4/	4/	—	—	—	—
Sheep and lambs . . . . .	.3	.7	+ 133	1.2	1.7	+ 42	35 5/	68 5/	+ 94
UNITED STATES									
Cattle, all	2,715	2,807	+ 3	10,860	11,383	+ 5	2,927	3,054	+ 4
Cows 3/	430	485	+ 13	1,787	1,957	+ 10	—	—	—
Heifers 3/	686	745	+ 9	2,724	2,967	+ 9	—	—	—
Steers 3/	1,373	1,334	— 3	5,452	5,492	+ 1	—	—	—
Calves	206	212	+ 3	866	899	+ 4	49	53	+ 8
Hogs, all	8,886	8,324	— 6	33,122	31,981	— 3	2,138	2,010	— 6
Sows 3/.	390	360	— 8	1,537	1,450	— 6	—	—	—
Sheep and lambs	486	537	+ 11	1,865	1,986	+ 6	55	58	+ 6

1/Excludes farm slaughter. 2/Percent change based on unrounded value. 3/Federally inspected only. 4/Federally inspected slaughter not published to avoid disclosing individual operations. 5/Expressed in thousands.

BEEF MARKET HIGHER

Cattle prices at Wisconsin auction markets in April were up from the previous month. Good and choice Holstein fed steers weighing 1,100 to 1,500 pounds averaged \$57.68 a hundredweight for April, an increase of \$1.76 from March but 9 cents under last year.

Large frame number two Holstein feeder steers weighing 800 to 1,000 pounds averaged \$53.32 a hundredweight dur-

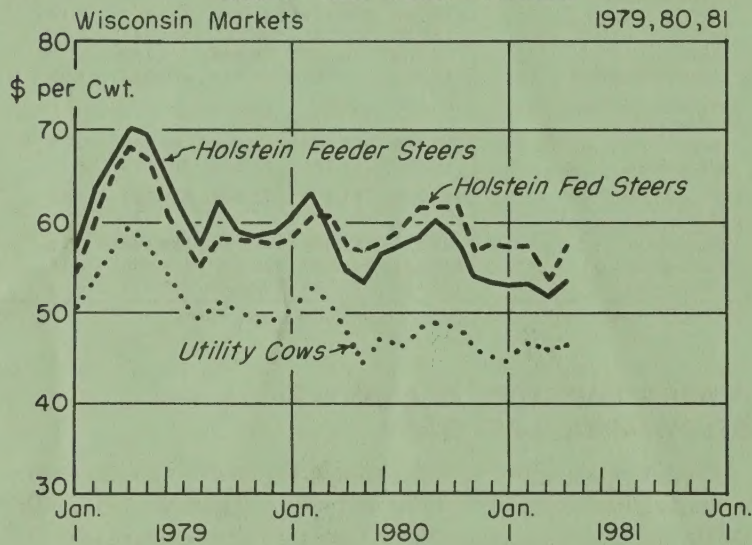
ing April, up \$1.40 from the previous month but \$1.49 below April 1980.

Utility cows brought an average of \$46.60 a hundredweight in April, a gain of 54 cents from March but \$1.73 less than a year ago.

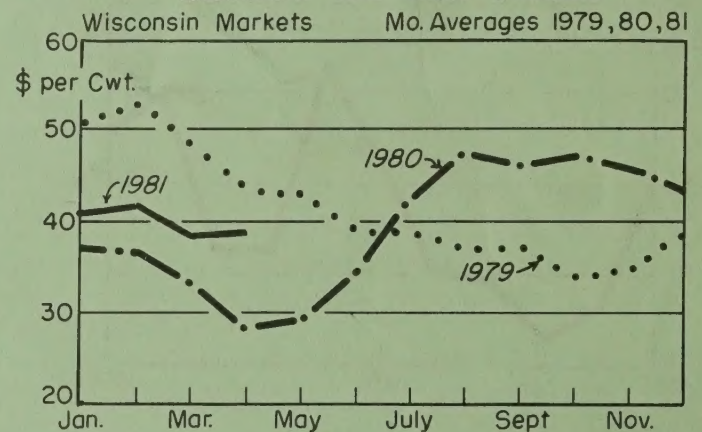
HOG PRICES UP SLIGHTLY

Prices of barrows and gilts at Wisconsin packing plants and country buying stations averaged \$38.93 a hundredweight in April, an increase of 19 cents from a month earlier and \$10.54 above last year when hog prices were at a 1980 low.

BEEF CATTLE PRICES



BARROW and GILT PRICES



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